

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Visitors

University of Arkansas at Monticello
Fine Arts Center, Spencer Gallery

April 23, 2015

4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

George Harris
Lynn Rodgers
India Holt
Gregg Reep
Roger George
Bettye Gragg
Linda Rowe

University Personnel Present:

Jay Jones, Interim Chancellor
Jimmie Yeiser, Provost/Vice Chancellor
Linda Yeiser, Vice Chancellor
Jay Hughes, Vice Chancellor
Bob Ware, Vice Chancellor
Linda Rushing, Vice Chancellor
Donna Hunnicutt, Assembly Chair Leader
Mary Whiting, Director of Admissions
Chris Ratcliff, Director of Athletics
Scott Kuttenkuler, Dean of Students

Mr. Gregg Reep called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

The Board approved the minutes from January's meeting.

Mr. Hughes discussed the selection process of students to be recognized as Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. He stated there were 109 nominations, 64 completed applications, and the selection committee chose 18 to be recognized.

Mr. Hughes gave an update on the Student Government Association stating that they had concluded with their online elections on Monday, April 21st, and 15% of campus participated in the election process.

Mr. Hughes went over the following student activities taking place this semester:

- Black History Month Balloon Release
- Wellness Fair
- Week long Arbor Day Events
- Career Fair
- Greek Week
- Crawfish Boil

- Sand Volleyball to promote Skin Cancer prevention
- Late Night Breakfast

Mr. Hughes gave an update on Title IX requirements and the Title IX educational online training module that will be available for faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Yeiser reported to the Board the following Points of Pride:

- National Council on Teacher Quality ranked UAM's School of Education 14th in the nation in Elementary Education and 27th in Secondary Education
- Jazz band attended the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival's National Competition and received more awards than any other jazz band

Dr. Yeiser stated that for the spring semester we have 698 students at high school level taking classes at UAM.

Dr. Yeiser informed the Board on the UAM retention plan and went over the different areas that are being addressed to improve retention rates.

Dr. Yeiser reported to the Board that he is waiting on the Higher Learning Commission to give him permission to release the final report to the public.

Dr. Yeiser stated that Commencement will be on Friday, May 8th at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Whiting gave the Board an update on the chancellor search. She stated one finalist dropped out due to personal reasons, and the remaining three have all visited the campus and are being considered by the committee.

Ms. Rushing reported to the Board on the following personnel changes at the Crossett campus:

- Thomas Oden – retired in February as maintenance supervisor of 17 years
- Dewayne Miles – hired as new maintenance supervisor
- Sherry Harris – retiring in June as Workforce Ed Instructor AOT
- Janie Carter – moved from assistant vice chancellor to part-time project coordinator

Ms. Rushing informed the Board that courses for Work Force Experience in Computer Maintenance/Networking and Electromechanical Technology were recently approved.

Ms. Rushing stated the Crossett campus's Bass Club competed in a national competition recently and did very well.

Mr. Ware updated the Board on the Adult Education Program. He stated that the budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year was \$883,255 and for the 2015-2016 fiscal year is \$649,331. He mentioned that they are looking for ways to make up the loss.

Mr. Ware discussed Career Pathways and some of the programs offered, including a CNA program and truck driving where three out of four students received their CDL license and went straight into the work force.

Mr. Ware stated that 100% of the students in the Nursing program at the McGehee campus passed the NCLEX Exam.

Ms. Yeiser reported to the Board on the following three new endowments:

- **Robert H. Burch, Jr. Waterfowl Research Endowment – began at \$5,000 and currently \$18,587.50.** Received from family and friends of Dr. Robert “Bobby” H. Burch, Jr. for additional support for waterfowl research. May be used for any legitimate expenditure for waterfowl research and related academic activities, with first preference for undergraduate or graduate research.
- **Greg Bland Memorial Scholarship – Currently \$10,280 and anticipate receiving a check to fully endow it at \$22,223.** Received from Mrs. Deborah Bland and other family and friends. The scholarship recipient must be an Arkansan and have full-time enrollment status in the UAM School of Math and Sciences, with first preference to a chemistry major and second preference to any natural sciences major.
- **Kelly Bashaw Memorial Scholarship – \$15,000, and has now reached endowed level.** Received from Mr. and Mrs. Glen Bashaw, family, and friends. The scholarship recipient must be an Arkansan and full-time student of any major.

Ms. Yeiser also informed the Board on the following fundraising efforts:

- The University’s number one priority fundraising priority continues to be the new \$25 million **Center for Mathematics and Sciences.**
- **Allen Wilson Maxwell Memorial Scholarship.** Similar to the Burch endowment, with a brochure, press release, and contacting his legislative friends.
- **Bricks on Weevil Walk** - They are on sale now and make good graduation gifts.

Ms. Yeiser informed Board members of the following upcoming alumni events and activities:

- Million Dollar Quartet – Broadway show
Sunday, April 26, 2:00 p.m.
Maumelle Performing Arts Center
- Family night with the Arkansas Travelers
Tuesday, June 23
Dickey-Stephens Park, North Little Rock
- Homecoming
Saturday, October 10

Ms. Yeiser stated that the UAM Foundation Fund Board of Directors met recently and elected new officers, Gregg Reep as Chairman and Nat Grubbs as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Ratcliff reported to the Board on the spring sports report and informed the Board on the following upcoming events:

- Monday, April 27th - Athletic Banquet
- Friday, May 29th annual golf tournament at Harbor Oaks in Pine Bluff

Mr. Ratcliff stated that the sports association has 281 members and raised \$125,000 this year.

Ms. Hunnicutt informed the Board that new officers were elected at the last meeting. She also mentioned the number of people attending meetings is relatively small and the leadership is trying to find ways to raise attendance.

Mr. Jones stated that due to the estimated costs, the Microwave Tower project has been put on hold for now and the Board will be updated on that project at a later date.

Mr. Jones discussed a presentation that the University will make to the Arkansas Natural Cultural Resources Council regarding the Taylor House Project on May 6th.

Mr. Jones stated that this year's UAM Distinguished Alumnus is Donnie King, president of North American Operations and Food Service for Tyson Foods, Inc.

Mr. Jones reported that the Universities Executive Council is working on a budget recommendation that will be presented to the Board of Trustees. He also stated that the University will be requesting approval of a 6.4% increase for UAM in tuition and fees, it would be a way to give a 1% raise in salaries for all UAM employees. He stated that a 9% increase in tuition and fees for Crossett COT and McGehee COT will be proposed to the Board.

The Board elected Gregg Reep as Chairman and George Harris as Vice Chairman.

Mr. Jones stated that the next Board of Visitor's meeting would be July 9th on the McGehee campus.

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.